

Are the personnel adequate and are they trained that need to do these inspections? Are we taking extra effort when we are dealing with hazardous materials?

Mr. Speaker, I have also asked the FRA and the National Transportation Safety Board to look at the adequacy of emergency response. The emergency responders did an excellent job this weekend. There is no doubt about it. But do they need more resources? Do they need more training? Do they need more equipment? Did Operation Respond function as we hoped that it would when we had it installed just last year?

It seems clear that whenever there is hazardous materials transportation along the rails that we must work together, the FRA, the National Transportation Safety Board, the railroad companies themselves, the emergency responders themselves, all work together to make sure that the emergency responders have the resources they need along that railroad right of way.

They are the ones that get called out at noon on Saturday when nobody else is around to handle 34 cars that have just derailed.

Mr. Speaker, we have made progress. Last year following the Scary tragedy, CSX working with FRA undertook a comprehensive wall-to-wall safety audit. I met in April, along with Jolene Molitoris the administrator of the FRA, with CSX personnel and we came away feeling good about some of the improvements that clearly have been made. But clearly we must all continue working even more, because hazardous materials transportation challenges us all to the highest possible safety standards.

So today I have written a letter to the administrator of the FRA. I have been in personal contact with the NTSB teams on the ground in West Virginia. We are going to request that there be a comprehensive review of safety measures in place along this hazardous materials corridor, and we want to make sure that this cleanup is undertaken in as quick a manner and safe a manner as possible.

CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week, Senator SLADE GORTON joined with me in sponsoring the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. This legislation was developed with the assistance of the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross. I will be introducing this bill this week and I urge my colleagues to join me as original co-sponsors.

What is the purpose of this bill? I think that could best be told by retelling a personal experience that I heard

last week during our press conference on this legislation.

A Mr. Bob Adams provides us with one of the most compelling reasons to pass the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. Mr. Speaker, he is still alive today because of an automatic external defibrillator, an AED. Let me explain.

On July 3, 1997, Bob Adams, who was 42 years old at the time, was walking through Grand Central Station in New York City when his heart stopped and he collapsed. He is a lawyer in a firm with 450 people, a husband, a father of three children.

He was in perfect health and in fact he had always experienced good health. In fact, Bob would tell that he was the least likely person in his firm of 450 employees to have an experience such as this. He was captain of his college basketball team, played professional basketball in Europe, and today is a nationally known college basketball referee.

Despite being in perfect health with no history of heart disease, this young man went into cardiac arrest the day before a holiday weekend in a place where half a million people pass through every day.

Mr. Speaker, timing was everything for Bob Adams. On July 2, the day before he collapsed, the automatic external defibrillator that the Metro North Commuter Railroad had ordered for use in Grand Central Station had just arrived. Luckily, the staff had also been well trained, not knowing they would have to test their skills so soon.

Bob's heart was stopped for approximately 5 minutes before the AED was unpacked from its shipping box and everyone hoped that it came with charged batteries. Thanks to the trained staff at the station, and an emergency medical technician who happened to be present, Bob's life was saved.

Doctors have never determined why Bob suffered a cardiac arrest. It simply stopped. Bob and his wife and three children are grateful that there was an AED in Grand Central Station on that particular day.

While Mr. Adams' story is more dramatic than most, my colleagues might be surprised to learn that more than 350,000 Americans suffer a sudden cardiac arrest every year. Fewer than 10 percent will be discharged from a hospital alive. The key to survival is timely initiation of a series of events, easily communicated as the "chain of survival."

The chain includes early activation of the emergency medical service, CPR, rapid defibrillation, and early advanced cardiac life support. Weakness in any link lessens the chance of survival and condemns the efforts of an emergency medical system to poor results. After as little as 10 minutes, very few resuscitation attempts are successful.

Mr. Speaker, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act would require the development of: One, a model State training program for first responders and bystanders in lifesaving interventions.

Two, model State legislation to ensure access to emergency medical services, including consideration of the very necessary training for use of life-saving equipment.

Three, directs the coordination of a national database in conjunction with existing databases relating to the incidents of cardiac arrest and whether interventions, including bystanders or first responders, improved the rate of survival.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass this type of bill. It is not expensive. It encourages joint partnership between the commercial and the private industry. This bill will ensure that all Americans will have the same protection available to them should they ever be caught in such a life-threatening position as Bob Adams.

PLIGHT OF ALEXANDER NIKITIN HAS BROAD INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the case of Alexander Nikitin, a case that has broad implications for the future of democracy, free speech, and the rule of law in Russia.

Nikitin is a retired Russian Navy captain who coauthored this report, "The Russian Northern Fleet: Sources of Radioactive Contamination," published by the environmental group Bellona. The report outlines a potential Chernobyl in slow motion from the release of radioactivity in the Russian northern fleet's nuclear submarines and storage facilities for nuclear waste.

The report describes an environmental disaster waiting to happen with retired and rusting nuclear-powered submarines still containing highly radioactive fuel docked at the Kola Peninsula in the Arctic Circle. Unprotected nuclear waste reportedly is also stored at bases and shipyards near Murmansk.

Mr. Speaker, if such a report were released about the U.S. fleet, it would be a national scandal. Clearly, this report, if published during the Communist rule of the Soviet Union, would have been repressed and its author charged with treason.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what has happened in Russia today. The report is banned and Nikitin has been charged with treason and releasing State secrets. This despite the fact that all the information in the report was taken from open, documented sources.

The saga of Nikitin's legal trouble is a sorry one. He was arrested and jailed for almost a year. Then he was released as the various investigations proceeded, but not allowed to travel outside of St. Petersburg. He was charged incredibly on six separation occasions

for violating six different sets of secret decrees.

Most recently on May 8, Russia's General Prosecutor charged Nikitin with treason, for the first time, and for releasing state secrets for the seventh time, but is no longer basing the charges on secret decrees. Rather than a victory for the rule of law, however, this new development is an even more egregious abuse because the charges are now based on exactly nothing. There were no public decrees defining secrets at time Nikitin allegedly revealed them, so the prosecutor has now violated the most fundamental principle of the rule of law: that one cannot be charged for a crime that was not defined at the time it happened.

□ 1245

These charges represent a very disturbing return to the old Soviet ways of prosecuting someone to repress and intimidate them.

One might ask, why should we care about this? There are many reasons. The world's environment belongs to all of us and a Chernobyl in slow motion should be of grave concern to the whole world. More specifically, for the U.S. Congress, we should be concerned because the United States is assisting Russia in building a facility in Murmansk for processing nuclear waste.

But it is what this case says about Russia today that should be of equal concern. Will Russian citizens really have the right to free speech? Will they be able to publish reports critical of the government without being arrested and prosecuted? Can Russia possibly face up to its massive environmental problems if it does not even want to hear about them? Will the rule of law emerge in Russia?

I ask my colleagues to join me in speaking out about this case, as many already have, sending letters to President Yeltsin as well as to Vice President GORE and Secretary of State Albright. I will be seeking an appointment with Russia's Ambassador to the United States to discuss the case, and I hope some colleagues will join me there as well.

There is too much at stake here—Russia's continuing progress as a free market, democratic country with the rule of law as its basis—too much at stake to ignore this critical case.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, over the last recess, while attending several Memorial Day services, I spent time focusing on the state of our dwindling national defense. By failing to maintain a strong military, we are dishonoring those who have served and died for our freedom. Unfortunately, the

next century will not be as peaceful as once envisioned.

Surprising the U.S. intelligence community, India and Pakistan have conducted nuclear weapons tests. It has been reported that Iraq has enough deadly biological weapons to kill every human being on earth. Just last week North Korea threatened the United States that they would not cease the production of nuclear weapons unless they were compensated. Despite administration claims that no nuclear missiles are aimed at American children, a CIA report reveals that 13 of China's 18 long-range strategic missiles have nuclear warheads aimed at U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, we do not live in a safe world. America faces new threats and dangers each and every day, and yet we continue to take risks with our military capabilities that would have been unthinkable a generation ago.

Our forces today are 32 percent smaller than they were just 10 years ago. In 1992 we had 18 Army divisions; we now have 10. In 1992 we had 24 fighter wings; we now have 13. In 1992 we had 546 Navy ships; we now have less than 300. In the last year the Navy has cut the Arsenal Ship, delayed the development of the next generation aircraft carrier, and cut its near term purchase of tactical aircraft by 45 percent.

This month the Army announced that it would downsize 6 divisions, cutting troop level 13 percent. Today I just read that the Marine Corps' entire procurement budget is now less than 1 week's worth of sales at Wal-Mart.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that. The Marine Corps' entire procurement budget is now less than 1 week's worth of sales at Wal-Mart.

Our forces are dwindling and yet new threats to our freedoms are ever increasing. Quite frankly, we are taking our freedom for granted. The American family feels protected and safe. Mom and dad tell their children that they live in a peaceful world. They rest easy, hoping their government is adequately defending America.

But what they do not know is that right now, while nuclear missiles are aimed at U.S. cities, our troops do not even have the basic ammunition they need. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition, and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that also. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition, and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million. What they do not know is that in May, a Navy fighter squadron commander informed his superiors that only two of his squadron's 14 Tomcat fighter jets are mission capable because of a lack of spare parts.

He said in his official report, and I quote, I strongly believe that it is my duty to protect my aircrews. Living at the end of the parts food chain can present difficult challenges and obstacles that may be unmanageable. We no longer have the tools to do our job. We

must provide aircrews with the necessary flights to get them combat ready for the safety of this Nation.

We are not telling the American people about the state of our military, Mr. Speaker. I and many of my colleagues in Congress have called upon the administration, senior military and the press to tell the hard truth to the American people.

While the President has cut defense nearly in half, he has deployed our troops 25 times during his tenure. In fact, the President has deployed U.S. troops more often than any other President in peacetime since World War II. These peacekeeping deployments have cost the taxpayers over \$13 billion and have bled our forces. The reality is our troops are learning peacekeeping and forgetting war fighting.

These peacekeeping deployments have also kept our men and women in uniform away from their homes and families for lengthy periods of time and have thereby decreased their morale.

We cannot continue to ask our military to do more with less. In the name of those who have fought and who have died for this country, we must continue to maintain our military readiness. I urge my colleagues to help preserve our freedom and security. We must support our armed forces.

May God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray with the Psalmist who said, "We give thanks to Thee, O God; we give thanks. We call on Thy name and recount Thy wondrous deeds."

We remember Your marvelous deeds, O God, and we celebrate the wonders of Your creation, for You have created this place where we live and learn, where there is work and play, where there is laughter and there are tears. You have given us a free will to choose the right over the wrong, the good over evil, and the honorable over the shameful.

While we praise Your name, O God, for the majesty of what You have given us, so we pray that we will be good stewards of the opportunities we have